



THE CHECK COLLECTOR

NOVEMBER 1989

THE JOURNAL OF

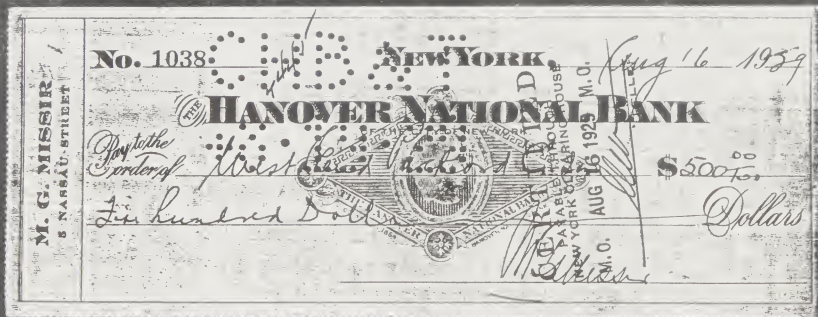
NUMBER 12

THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHECK COLLECTORS

"ADVERTISING FACSIMILES"



"AD - FACS"



A DESIGNATION WHOSE TIME HAS COME!

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

This issue will mark the completion of three years of publication of The Check Collector. Since our first issue, The Check Collector has doubled in size and one issue included a membership directory. The Check Collector reflects the areas of interest of our members in our hobby and information they wish to share with our readers.

Like The Check Collector, our membership has continued to grow. We look to the personal efforts of our members and to such programs as the Check Pool to make our membership grow. Should we reach a membership of 600, which was attained several years ago, we could enhance The Check Collector and insure a viable Society.

Our Treasurer Jon Cook has provided a Treasurer's Report of the Society for this issue. Our thanks to Jon for a good job and for much hard work.

Our busy Secretary, Charley Kemp, has agreed to act as our Librarian. Members wishing to contribute books and related materials about our hobby are requested to send them to him. We certainly could use a couple of the "Handbook of Check Collecting" for our new members.

Some of our members are to be commended for efforts to enhance interest in our hobby. Larry Marsh presented a program at the Numismatic Theatre of the Annual Convention of the American Numismatic Association in Pittsburgh. Dick Naven will chair a program with an exhibit at the ANA Convention in Seattle, OR, in the summer of 1990. Dale McNee, P.O. Box 926, Pendleton, OR 97801, will assist and coordinate the exhibit. Write if you are interested.

Our thanks and appreciation to the check dealers who have included a note of information about our Society in their price lists and auction catalogs. They do their part to boost our membership.

Your president is looking for a few good members to fill some positions on a variety of committees. Why not get involved? It is a small time investment for a large measure of satisfaction as well as a nice way to become acquainted with our members.

The Check Collector needs more articles from our members. One and two page articles are especially welcomed. Send full size copies of any checks used as illustrations. The article need not be typed, but it must be legible. Why not share some of your interesting items or areas of interest in your collection with our members?

The Editor notes that our readers have no questions on their hobby! The Collectors Clearing House has been all but forgotten by our mail. And our Happy Find-

THE CHECK COLLECTOR

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**THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHECK COLLECTORS**

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ings and Conversation Pieces -- have no pleasant finds or interesting acquisitions shown up in your collection? Please let us hear from you.

As The Check Collector heads into its fourth year, we look to all of our members to help keep us filled with interesting information and reading about our hobby.

Join us, write to us and
Happy collecting,

Bob Spence

SOME RN FACSIMILIES ON CHECKS - II

By Ed Lipson

I will now commence with some discussion of another group of Facsimiles. The Facsimile shown in Figure 11 is mentioned and referred to in the Handbook of U.S. Revenue Stamped Paper of the American Revenue Association. The RN-Facsimile in the center thereof is quite attractive, printed in orange on green colored stock and having reference to, or having been prepared for, someone who ran a bank in Cheyenne, Wyoming. I would say it is a rather difficult item to come by. I certainly would like to pick up a copy of this item in used condition. In fact, I prefer to have all my Facsimiles in used condition if possible. However, this item from Cheyenne not only is quite lovely and certainly worth our giving it some attention.

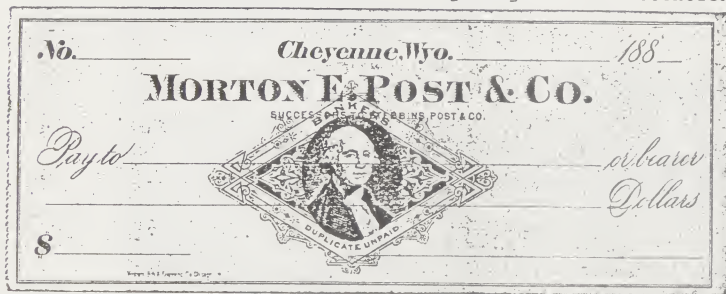


Fig. 11



Fig. 12

The next item, shown in Figure 12, is a lovely Type G Facsimile drawn on, or prepared for, the National Bank of Commerce in New York. As I read the inscription in the lower left, it appears to have been produced by Charles F. Ketchum & Co. and I would say this Facsimile is quite beautiful. However, this particular Facsimile is not terribly rare and appears quite frequently on checks. For the time being I would say, just look at the detail in the center of the check and be alert for the possibility that another item similar to this may soon make its appearance.

The next item, which we have classified as Figure 13, is a check drawn on the Hanover National Bank. There is a Facsimile in the middle of the check, but apparently this check was in use at the time of the Spanish-American War, a two cent tax prevailed on the check and

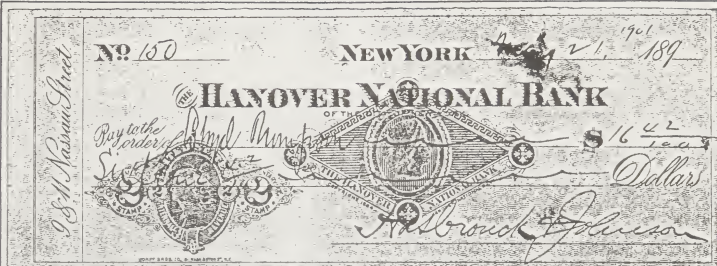


Fig. 13

Accordingly, the RN was imprinted to the left of the Facsimile. So as you look at the check, you will see both the RN Facsimile and the two cent Type RN-X imprint. A very, very interesting item, quite attractive but not really rare in any sense of the word.

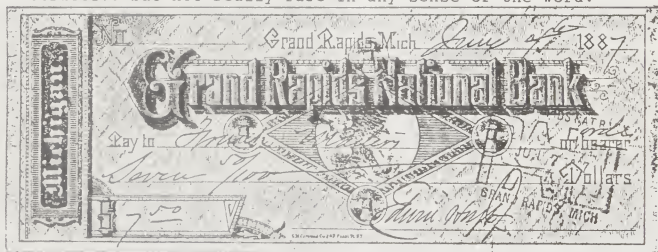


Fig. 14

The next item, Figure 14, is another Facsimile and I would say that it is quite out of the ordinary. It has little clusters of wheat at each point of the diamond and an eagle, which is our national bird, in the center of the vignette. The check was prepared by C. M. Cornwell Co. and is quite nice. There is also a handstamp on there from the Grand Rapids National Bank. It is interesting that so many of the RN Facsimiles that appear here resemble the Type G. However, I think this is quite understandable inasmuch as the Type G stamp remained in use until sometime in 1882 when stamps were no longer required on checks.



Fig. 15

The next item, Figure 15, is a Facsimile again similar to Type G and prepared by our old friend, Corlies, Macy & Co. for use in a small town in New Jersey. The design surrounding the frontal portion of the check and the border is a variation of the Greek set, or Greek key, or Roman key, as it is sometimes called. Certainly an interesting Facsimile, but then again, nothing in particular to brag about.



Fig. 16

Figure 16 has what appears to be a Facsimile of sorts on a check used in 1896. It resembles the shape of RN imprints and is printed in gold color. I am not so sure that I want to think of this as being a true Facsimile. It would appear to me that while this item has some of the characteristics of a Facsimile and that it calls for payment in gold and having its origin in California, it would more properly have to be considered as a central vignette and as a design of the bank in California than as a true Facsimile. However, if you want to call it a Facsimile, enjoy it!

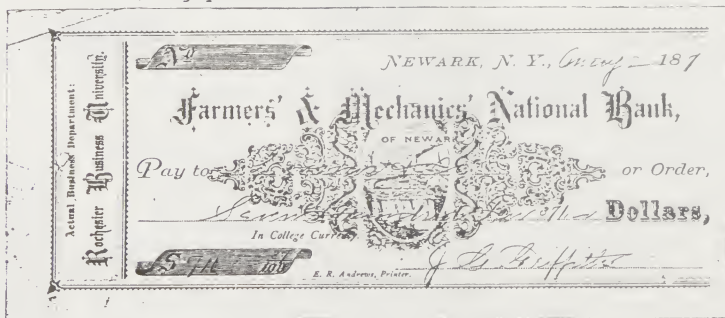


Fig. 17

The item which is Figure 17 is, I think, a rather sensational item. It appears the check is dated as you look at it: May 2, 187. The numeral "7" is drawn in by pen and as you can see, matches the "7" on the check itself where it is used to fill in the amount of the money. You will also note that where the word "Dollars" are used, or beneath the line where it is written in, is the amount "Seven Hundred Ten Dollars and 37 cents in College Currency" Hence I can only deduce this check is one that was used by a business school of sorts. You will note that the name of the user, the Rochester Business University, appears at the left hand side of the check. You will also note that the center of the design has a reproduction of Niagara Falls. Perhaps this is because Newark, New York, is located way

upstate in the northern portion of New York and undoubtedly it is close to the Niagara Falls area. I cannot say whether or not this is a Facsimile intended to be used when checks no longer required the use of revenue stamps or whether or not this was used by the school in the process of training the students as to how business people should conduct themselves.



Fig. 18

The check in Figure 18 is quite interesting. You will note that we showed you this check earlier as an unused Facsimile. Here is an example of one of these checks where the revenue stamp is imprinted over the Facsimile and that this check was used in March of 1901 during the period when a two cent tax was required on checks.

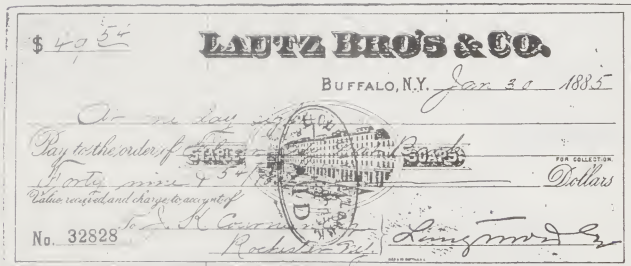


Fig. 19

Figure 19 is also rather interesting. I must say that from the color of the imprint in the center of the check, they certainly have come up with a design that in a sense resembles one of the forms of RN stamps. Oddly enough, the center of the design appears to be a picture of the factory and the extensions at either end, left and right, mentions their brand of Staple Soaps. Also, bear in mind that this item, which is dated January 30, 1885, was used a long time after the requirement for stamps was eliminated. The law eliminated the two cent stamp on July 1, 1882. However, this particular item was drawn at one day's sight. By having drawn this check at one day's sight, it was taken out of the category of a check or draft payable at sight and accordingly, this item was exempt from tax along about 1870.

The next item, Figure 20, has a lovely central design and is a small check drawn on the Manhattan Company, known later as the Bank of Manhattan. Again, it is in orange, but whether or not we can really say this is a Facsimile, I do not know.



Fig. 20

The next item which we will discuss is Figure 21. It is a sample check beyond any question, prepared by the firm of J. Ottmann for use in the 1880's. I can not be sure that the central design of this check was intended to imitate or resemble a revenue imprint. However,

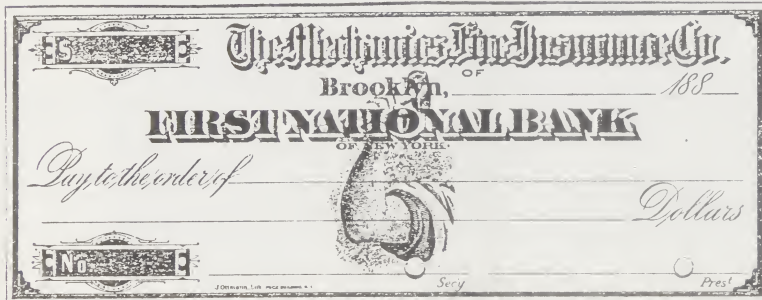


Fig. 21

the color is orange and as you look at the actual check, you have to look closely to locate the design that affirms. The photocopy shows the design much more clearly than does the actual check itself.

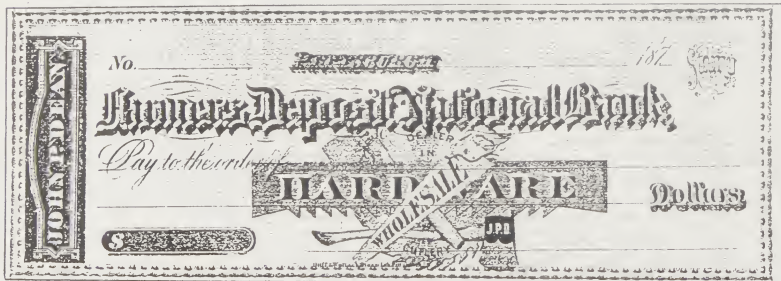


Fig. 22

The check in Figure 22 I find rather interesting. Printed by Duff & Wettach, Steam Lithographers, Pittsburgh, the check has an overall blue color with printing in black. The central device with "wholesale hardware" is printed in orange. I assume as I looked at this, that the faceplate of this check was used to print checks for the John P. Dean Co., Pittsburgh, in the 1860's prior to the time when

RN imprints were available. Hence you will note the space for an adhesive revenue stamp on this check at the upper right hand corner. I would be inclined to guess that, at a later date, this same face-plate was used with an RN imprint, leaving the word "Stamp" therein without altering the plate. In the 1880's when stamps were no longer required, the "wholesale hardware" design was added, perhaps from a letterhead, as a Facsimile. Note that the check is imprinted "187__", indicating the 1870's and certainly in the 1870's, RN's were around. That was when the central design of this check was introduced and I must say it becomes real interesting to realize the various possibilities that may have existed with respect to this check. All in all, while it is a dramatic piece, I would not refer to it as an RN-Facsimile, but as an "Advertising Facsimile" (AD-FAC). I have used the term "Advertising Facsimile" because I feel that some of the Facsimiles which exist merely seek to simulate the Revenue Stamp Imprint, whereas, others not only simulate the Revenue Stamp Imprint, but, they also carry an advertising message however subtle it may be.



Fig. 23

Figure 23 has a beautiful Facsimile on a sample check of J. Ottmann, Lithographer, Puck Building, New York City. The check is printed on blue paper and the Facsimile is printed in a true orange shade, striking when printed on the blue. The remainder of the check is printed in black. This is truly a beautiful, beautiful Facsimile and I am certain it was prepared for use in the 1880's, when the memory of stamps being on a check was still within the remembrance of people writing checks. In terms of shape, the Facsimile certainly resembles the Type G Revenue Imprint. In terms of what it says; it is clearly an Advertising Facsimile.

The last item, Figure 24, is similar to a check illustrated as Figure 71 in the Handbook of Revenue Stamped Paper, as published by the American Revenue Association. If you were to read the description of the reference which is made to this item in the Handbook, you will learn that it is referred to as Type E-Fraud. As a matter of fact, when I acquired this Facsimile, I acquired it from a stamp dealer who sold it to me as a forgery of the real thing. However, I did not think he was right, but I wanted to have it so badly that I did not want to argue with him. In actual fact, it is not a forgery. If you would examine this item, above the words "Pay to the order of" there appears the phrase "Three days after date without grace". This meant that this particular check was not a draft payable at sight on which a tax would be required like an ordinary check, but rather it became a bill of exchange not payable at sight. As a matter of fact, on October 1, 1872, a little over a year before this item was issued, the law requiring payment of a tax on a draft was withdrawn. It was repealed. And so, what we have here is apparently a Facsimile and



Fig.

24

produced as a design by the makers of the check. I think it is a beautiful item and I consider this to be the finest revenue stamp Facsimile item that I have ever seen. I am really thrilled to have it. By the way, this item was produced by the firm of Ezra A. Cook & Co., in Chicago. Apparently it is a genuinely used item indicated by the handstamps on the back of this check. I think it is phenomenal, perhaps the nicest Facsimile that I own.

Our discussion has led me to feel that those imprints which carry a logo or an advertising message are a different breed from those which merely simulate the stamp. Hence we are now discussing two different types of Facsimiles and I think and feel that those Facsimiles which are advertising oriented should be considered as a separate group.

(Editor's Note: Ed Lipson will be happy to respond to any questions regarding RN's that our readers may put to him. His address is: 46 Appletree Lane, North Haven, CT 06473).

POSTAL NOTE FIRST DAY ISSUE

By Jim Noll

The article on the Postal Note First Day Issue by Neil Sowards was like a visit to an old friend. Back in 1974 on my travels, I attended a local stamp club meeting at a residence in the Central Valley of California. When asked what I collected, I showed a few Postal Notes I had with me. The lady at whose house the meeting was being held rushed from the room saying "I have one of those" and returned with the Turlock #62 note described by Neil as now being part of Mike Ertmoed's collection. At that time it was in a frame with the Postmaster's note.

It is of interest to note that of the almost 300 Type 1 Postal Notes I know of in collectors hands, this is the only one from Turlock. Early issue date Type 1 Postal Notes are not unusual; over two-thirds of the reported notes of Type 1 are from September 1883, with at least 50 First Day 09/03/1883. Since each town had its own number one, etc., it is also not uncommon to have a low serial number, with fully one-third of the reported notes having serial numbers under one hundred.

One comment I must take issue with is the statement that prior to 1883, there was no way to send money through the mail in amounts less than \$5.00. The US Money Order system was in operation since 1864 and fully half the issued orders up to 1883 were for sums of \$5.00 or less, which is why the Postal Note was set at that number as a top value. Thus, the simpler to issue and use Postal Note could supplement the more difficult and costly Money Order service in at least 50% of the cases at a lower fee, .03 versus .10. In my personal collection, the same ratio of over/under \$5.00 applies in early Money Orders with about half of each in the examples from the 1870's through the 1890's period.

CROSSED CHECKS

By Lee Poleske

When I started collecting British checks (or perhaps I should say cheques!), I noticed that many of them had a couple of transverse lines across the face of the check. This was also true of checks from Scotland and Ireland (see Figure 1). At first I thought it was a way of cancelling the check, but some research in David Shaw's "A Collector's Guide to British Cheques" and other sources proved that was a mistake and provided the facts about the matter.

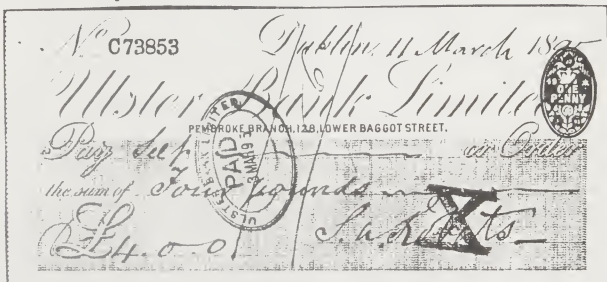


Fig. 1

Putting those two parallel transverse lines across the face of a check is called "crossing" a check. It warns the bank not to pay the check to an individual but only to deposit it. It is the equivalent of our notation on the back of a check: "For deposit only".

The name of a specific bank may also be written between the crossing lines (see Figure 2), in which case the check may only be deposited at that bank.

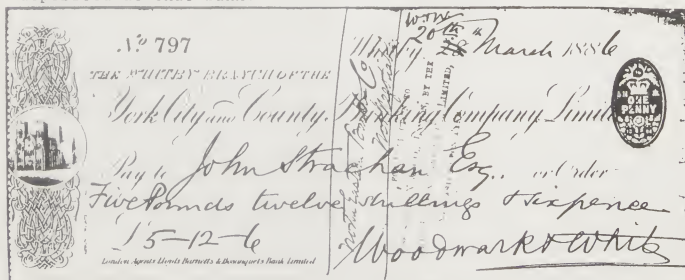


Fig. 2

THIS AND THAT:

Dick and Sue Naven are researching the early paper money and scrip of Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Background historical information needed on most material. Need to photograph all types of above material. Contact them at: OPME, 6802 S.W. 33rd Place, Portland, OR 97219.

Assistance for future article requested regarding W. L. Ormsby, Engraver. Anyone having checks or other documents engraved by him please contact: Michael J. Sullivan, P. O. Box 32131, Cincinnati, OH 45232.

MORE AUTOGRAPH CHECKS

By Sanford J. Mock

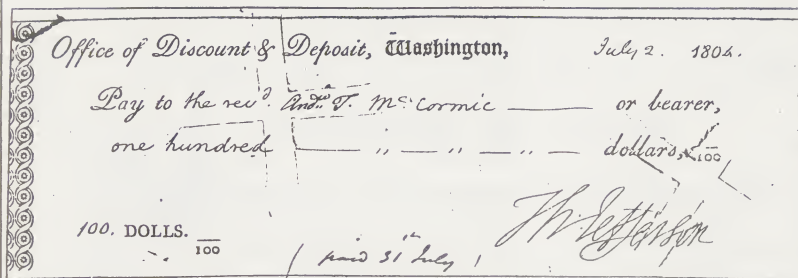


Fig. 1

The check shown in Figure 1 is one of Thomas Jefferson, third President of the United States. This check was drawn and paid during the month that Aaron Burr killed Alexander Hamilton in a duel.

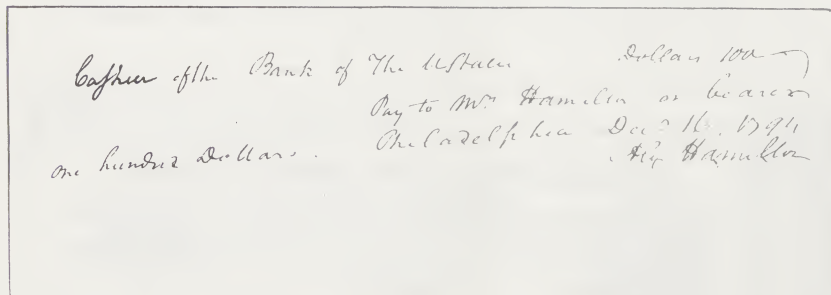
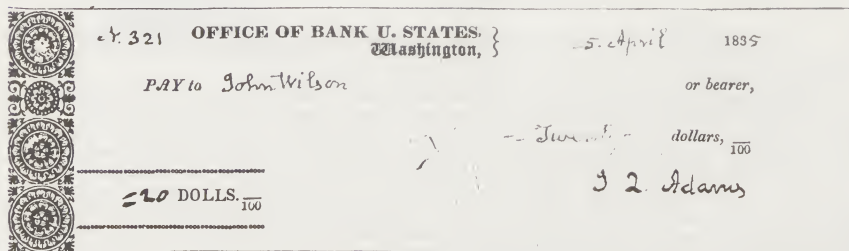
Figure 2

Figure 2 is a handwritten check of Alexander Hamilton, drawn on the Bank of the United States, the bank he created. He became a leader in the Federalist Party, in opposition to Thomas Jefferson and James Madison's Republicans.

Figure 3

The check shown in Figure 3 is a partly-printed, signed bank check, drawn on the Washington Office of the Bank of the United States by John Quincy Adams, sixth President of the United States. It is accomplished in Adams' hand and is dated after Adams' Presidency when he was serving as a Congressman from Massachusetts.

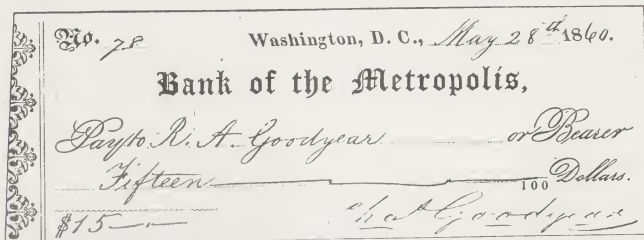


Figure 4

An interesting check signed by Charles Goodyear, inventor of the process of vulcanizing rubber, is shown in Figure 4. This check was written a month before he died, impoverished.

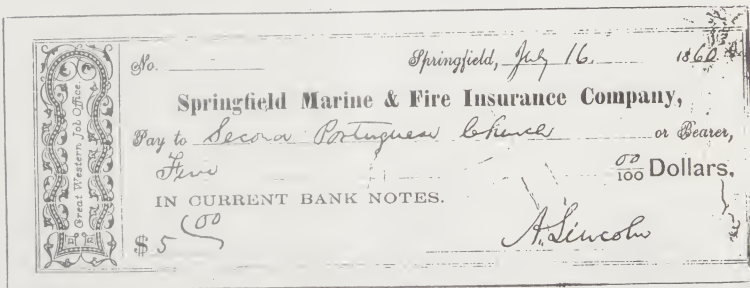


Figure 5

I am happy to show a picture of my number one prize check! Figure 5 shows a check of Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth President of the United States and drawn in the year he was elected President.

This check is related to an inspiring, fascinating and seldom told story of the beginnings, trials and subsequent journeys of a group of Portuguese religious refugees, originally from Madeira thence via Trinidad, to the prairies of Southern Illinois, five thousand miles from their original home. Abraham Lincoln, in his law practice, had business contacts with these Portuguese. The check is payable to the Second of the two Portuguese Churches that were in Springfield at that time. Records show that Lincoln gave considerable support to the establishment of the Portuguese in this area.

This stuff gets more wonderful all the time!

THE BANK OF CRAWFORD COUNTY

By Richard L. Biemer

The Bank of Crawford County, Meadville, PA, was more or less typical of those 19th century financial institutions that sprouted, flourished for a while, then withered and died. Its total life was ten years, spanning from 1857 to 1863 as a state chartered institution and from 1863 to 1867 as a national bank. During the first period of six years, it was the only bank in a town of about 7,000 population.

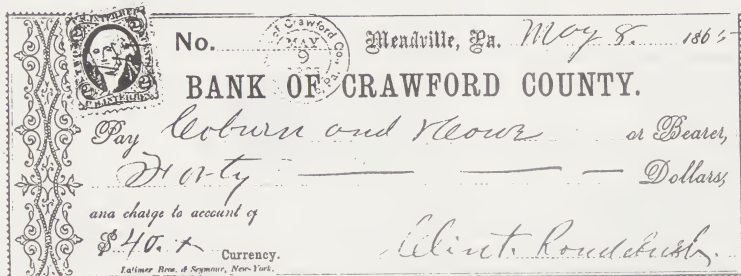


Figure 1

Paper money was printed in the first period, the notes existing today being fairly common. There is no record that national bank notes were issued during the bank's second phase.

Checks (apparently none of which had vignettes) are scarce. Figure 1 shows a typical example dated in the second period, but printed during the first period, since it does not carry the National Bank title.

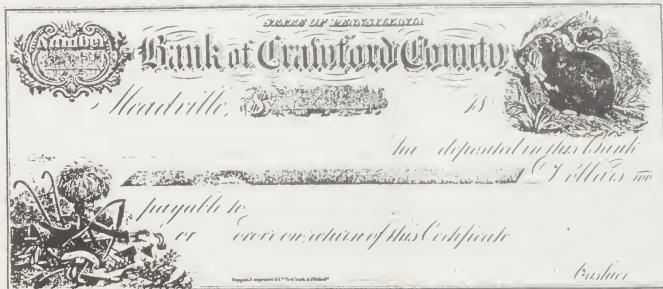


Figure 2

Figure 2 is a large proof of a vignetted document; however, no canceled checks of this type have surfaced. These would be quite rare.

There is remarkably little information concerning this bank; its location was in the town's business district, but no pictures exist.

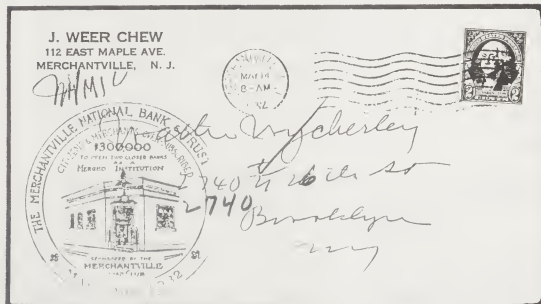
Probably the institution's demise was hastened by the establishment of two new national banks in 1863 and 1865. Competition was heavy.

As in the case of many financial institutions of the early and mid-19th century, records and artifacts have been discarded and lost, leaving tantalizing bits and pieces for the historian to attempt to piece together. The writer welcomes written information concerning the Bank of Crawford County.

Cachet Commemorates Bank Founding

by Herman L Boraker

The Merchantville, N. J. stamp club sponsored the illustrated cachet to commemorate the founding of the Merchantville National Bank & Trust Company. The cachet states that "Citizens & Merchants Over-Subscribed \$300,000 to open two closed banks as a merged institution."



Cachet design
and postal
cancellation
are dated
May 14, 1932

The following banking data was obtained from the Standard Catalog of National Bank Notes by John Hickman and Dean Oakes, published by Krause Publications, 1982.

The First National Bank of Merchantville, charter No. 8323, was organized on June 21, 1906 with a capital of \$25,000. Title changed to The First National Bank and Trust Company of Merchantville on November 10, 1924.

The First National Bank & Trust Company of Merchantville, charter No. 8323, succeeded the above listed bank, November 10, 1924. Placed in receivership on October 19, 1931. Reason for failure: local depression. Restored to solvency on May 14, 1932. Title changed to Merchantville National Bank and Trust Company on June 30, 1932.

The Merchantville National Bank and Trust Company, charter No. 8323, succeeded The First National Bank & Trust Co. of Merchantville, on June 30, 1932.

Attention is called to the fact that the same charter number was retained by each succeeding bank. All three banks issued national bank notes making it possible to match up checks and notes from each.

Can any ASCC member furnish additional information pertaining to the Merchantville National Bank and Trust Company? Possibly photocopies of checks from the three banks?

The Check Collector

CHECKS OF J. EDGAR HOOVER

By Brent Hughes

No. 769 WASHINGTON, D.C. Mar. 31 1922

15-54 THE WASHINGTON LOAN AND TRUST COMPANY 15-54
CAPITAL \$1,000,000.

PAY TO THE ORDER OF Continental Trust Co. \$ 25.00

Twenty - five ⁰⁰/₁₀₀ DOLLARS

AND CHARGE THE SAME TO THE ACCOUNT OF BOOK No. 73202

John Edgar Hoover

This check is valuable because the signature is one of the few existing autographs of J. Edgar Hoover done when he was still signing his name John Edgar Hoover.

Hoover used his full name when he went to work at the Justice Department about 1918 while working his way through law school. He continued to use the full name until he was appointed Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1924.

Immediately after assuming office Hoover discovered that there was another government official also named John Edgar Hoover who had been signing documents for some time. To avoid confusion and future problems, the FBI Director decided to use J. Edgar Hoover as his legal signature.

There are thousands of J. Edgar Hoover signatures around today on letters, documents and books, but very few are autographs. The Director had an administrative assistant named Helen Gandy who could sign Hoover's name so skillfully that it was virtually impossible to distinguish it from the real autograph. Two other staff members could do almost as well. Therefore Hoover himself personally signed few items. He simply noted "O.K. H." in blue ink on papers and his staff formalized the document, signed it and sent it out.

Miss Gandy knew that I collected checks in those days and presented me with a group of six assorted checks like this one. She kept a few and probably passed a few others around to her friends. The box of old checks had been discovered in Mr. Hoover's attic during some structural changes to his home. The remainder of the checks were destroyed in 1966 and when he died in 1972, any others that existed were destroyed by Miss Gandy when the home was vacated and sold.

An ad in The Check Collector is an effective means for members to reach the check collecting hobby and dealers of checks and related documents.

A business card size ad is \$10 an issue. A quarter page ad is \$25 an issue. Black and white copy must be camera ready. Orders must be paid in advance and shall be restricted to checks, related documents, publications, accessories and supplies.

H.J.W. Daugherty

PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

P.O. Box 1146

Eastham, Mass., 02642

WRITE FOR OUR NEXT CATALOG
CHECKS ARE ALWAYS INCLUDED

THE A.S.C.C. CHECK POOL

By John T. Paslawsky

The A.S.C.C. Check Pool is alive and doing very well. The first wave of requests for 100-check packets has reduced our check pool to about 20,000 checks. Presently, I have twenty-five 100-check packets ready for the next wave of requests. Members may request any number of packets which they can use in our search for new members, regardless of age. The check packets are free, but we do appreciate a one dollar bill for each 100-check packet to take care of postage. You may use your packet by showing it to interested parties such as relatives, neighbors, friends, local groups, etc., or you may break the packet into two or four smaller groups and give them to interested individuals. In either case, please do inform the interested parties that they can obtain similar check packets by writing to me. All Check Pool packets come with a membership application form on which you may place your name as a sponsor.

You probably noticed my mentioning that we are searching for new members "regardless of age. Let me elaborate on this. Although the A.S.C.C. Check Pool was started to help attract youngsters into our membership, it is available to any interested party, regardless of age. We certainly have a substantial number of checks available for this give-away, thanks to the generous contributions from our members. In line with this "regardless of age" idea, I shall submit an article on check collecting to the Bulletin of the American Association of Retired Persons and also to a regional publication called Senior Spotlight (Denver and Dallas areas) entitled: "Looking for a New and Interesting Hobby? Try Check Collecting!"

I am delighted to inform members that our Check Pool drive is beginning to show results. Two young people have joined our Society and congratulations are in order to all who have contributed to this initial success! Let me remind you that the Check Pool was designed to spread checks and to create interest in check collecting. So send in your requests for check packets to: John T. Paslawsky, 583 Ord Drive, Boulder, CO 80303.

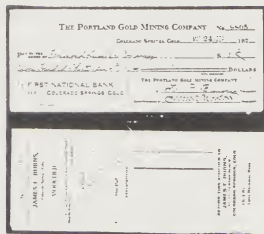
U. S. GOVERNMENT CHECKS

U. S. Government checks now have "Void after one year" on their face. All checks issued before October 1, 1989, must be cashed by Sept. 30, 1990, or they will be cancelled.

Previously, U. S. Government checks were good whatever their age. And the current six-year limit for filing a claim for a missing check has been reduced to one year. Check collectors may have a new supply of cancelled U. S. Government checks after September 30, 1990, when checks one year and over are voided. (Thanks to notes from Ray Whyborn and Jim Noll).

PORTLAND GOLD MINE
produced over \$60,000,000 in gold

In 1874 J. Burns, J. Doyle & J. Harnan formed the mining company. J. Howbert served as clerk of El Paso County 1869 to 1879, principal organizer Colorado Midland RR, president First National Bank of Colorado Springs and Mining Co. Thos. F. Burns brother of James Burns. Burns, Doyle, Harnan & Howbert were millionaires. **PORTLAND VOUCHER-CHECK** & Burns Voucher \$5.50. H. Boraker, P.O. Box 204, Rocky Ford, CO 81067



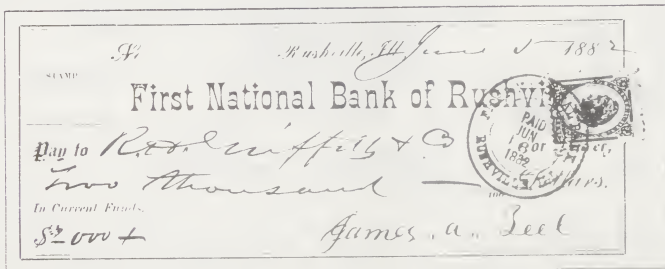
THE WEALTHIEST MAN IN SCHUYLER COUNTY, ILLINOIS?

By Fred Drost, NLG

Who was James "A" Zeel, of Rushville, (County Seat of) Schuyler County, Illinois, who wrote the three checks, pictured here, during the 1880's-1890's era?

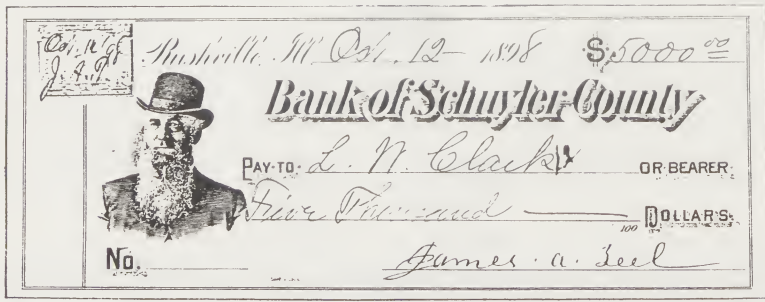
I am very interested to hear from ASCC members who have a check(s) written by this fellow of substantial means. Perhaps we could learn more about him.

Let me tell you why. This fellow's checks intrigue me for two reasons: two of the three checks written by him apparently have his portrait on them, and, second, they are written for amounts of two and five thousands of dollars; very substantial sums about a century ago when a steak dinner at a fine restaurant cost under 50 cents. The backs of these three checks are blank.

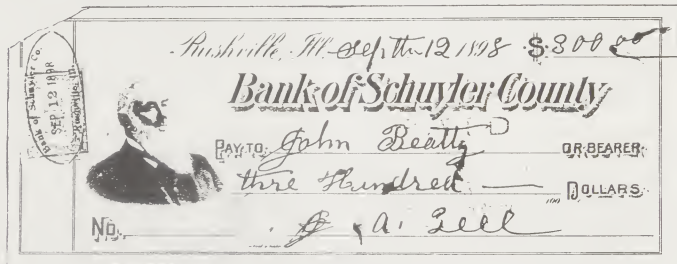


The oldest check I have of his is dated June 5, 1882, drawn on the First National Bank of Rushville. It is printed in black on white paper with no printer's name. It has an Internal Revenue stamp (R-152) which is glued to the check at the upper right just below the date, despite the box at the upper left marked "stamp". This check for \$2,000 is cancelled by the bank with a very bold "paid" stamp in violet. It has a crude cut cancel through the center, as if torn around a bank official's thumb.

Which of the next two portrait checks were printed first? According to the portraits on these checks, they apparently were used out of sequence. Mr. Zeel evidently never numbered his checks; notice there is a place for the sequence number on each of these checks which he left blank consistently.



I will be guided by the portrait on the next two checks. On pink paper, with a portrait apparently of James "a" Zeel, the first is dated Oct. 12- 1898 and on the Bank of Schuyler County in Rushville, Illinois. The portrait shows him full face, slightly to his right at a slightly younger age than than the previous check and wearing a rakish bowler hat. He has a distinctive signature. Compare it with his of 1882. He always wrote his middle initial with single or double quotation marks. The "J" of James looks like he started out writing a "g" then embellished it. It is cancelled also with tearing the check through the center. This time in two directions. "Lith by Oval & Koster, Mpls (Minneapolis)" at the bottom.



The last check, also on light pink paper, is dated a month earlier on September 12, 1898 for "thre" (sic) hundred dollars on the Bank of Schuyler County. It has a portrait of the balding man wearing a formal business suit and having a full white beard, at left. The revenue stamp (R-164) only has the bank's oval dated stamp. It was printed by Gast of Louis.

Did he help found the bank? He certainly looks like a banker type of those times, especially on this check, don't you think! And he certainly appears to have assets to help establish a bank.

Rushville, the county seat of Schuyler County, is about midway between Springfield, Illinois' capital city and Iowa, along the Mississippi River and continues to be a small farming community.

If any reader has a check(s) written by this fellow, please write to me at: 110 Ridgefield St., Meriden, CT 06450-7733.



THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CHECK COLLECTORS

TREASURER'S REPORT as of November 1, 1988

Cash (on hand) \$4124.40

Revenue	\$4584.21
Dues & ads	\$4291.00
Interest	\$293.21

Expenses \$3366.17

Balance forward from November 1, 1988 \$2906.36

Jon C. Cook/Treasurer

JAMES F. BURNS

by Herman L. Boraker

James F. Burns



James F. Burns

James F. Burns

James Ferguson Burns, a hot-tempered Scotch-Irishman, was born in Portland, Maine. He arrived in Colorado Springs from New Orleans in 1886, to look out for his three sisters and his wild brother, Tom.

Before that time he had had a romantic career in Cuba and South America, engaged in the cane sugar business. "Jimmie" Burns started life in the Springs driving a road grader, then went to work as a plumber and steam fitter. He was quick and aggressive and he had a great capacity for detail. He was perpetually in a dither about something.

He was raised a good Catholic, but he made his pious sisters unhappy because he questioned parts of the Catholic doctrine. He had contempt for Springs society. He felt that he had seen much more of the world than most of these aristocrats and that it took more brains to repair a toilet than to talk bad French or race a gig along Cascade avenue.

Burns had many enemies because of his peppery disposition, yet he was elected foreman of Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 for three years running. Among his doting admirers was a harum-scarum Irishman named Jimmie Doyle, aged twenty-three. Jimmie Doyle, like Burns, had been born and raised in Portland, Maine. He was an orphan and as he grew up the Burns girls became fond of him and appointed themselves his protectors. When the sisters moved West to Colorado Springs, Doyle moved with them, and worked as their errand boy in the seamstress business.

In 1890 Jimmie Burns resigned as foreman of the Hook and Ladder Co., and he saw to it that Jimmie Doyle got the job. Burns and Doyle were worried about the future. The building trades in the Springs had

enjoyed four prosperous years. Now business was slowing down. The real estate boom was over and contractors had little construction up for the spring.

It was at this time that Bob Womack had gone on a binge and was put in the city jail. After he sobered up and was released he talked about his discovery of gold at the new town of Cripple Creek. Although Burns and Doyle did not know anything about gold mining, they realized that it might be a good idea to watch this Cripple Creek thing. They had nothing to lose. Cripple Creek was almost in their back yard.

Because of the talk about gold several men traveled to the Cripple Creek area to look it over. Several of them staked claims. Following a discussion between several of these men it was decided to hold a miners meeting to form a mining district. Following the April 5 miners meeting, which was held at the Broken Box Ranch, many prospectors entered the area and filed claims. On the whole Cripple's first summer was difficult for everyone. Quick profits were not possible. The placers in most cases were false alarms, and to most of the professionals the future contained an enormous if.

James Burns and James Doyle established a claim on a little triangular piece of ground, not more than a sixth of an acre in size, built a cabin and began working the ground. Before long both of them were completely discouraged because all they had found was hard work. John Harnan, an experienced miner, came along and chaffed them by saying, "why don't you make a mine out of this claim?"

"We'll take you in as a partner and give you a third of the holding if you uncover any pay ore," granted Burns. Harnan set to work and ten days later, having driven a crosscut from their shaft six feet below the surface, he struck the Portland vein. Prospectors on adjacent claims immediately began to make trouble, and the mine was tied up in litigation because it was not patented. W. S. Stratton, who by this time was making money, urged the three partners to form a company, promising to take stock in it up to \$75,000 and to supply the money they needed to fight the jealous claimants. Together in 1894 they formed the Portland Gold Mining Co. and were able to buy off desirable claims and contending interests. As years went by both the Portland and Stratton's Independence mines were developed until the properties adjoined. More consolidation followed until the value of the entire group rose to \$4,000,000. By 1911 the mine produced over \$30,000,000 and the grand total of all properties owned by the company was estimated at nearly \$100,000,000. The Portland was still producing in 1942. Company pay check illustrated below was issued to Wm. Faris, Jan. 15, 1932.

Check payable at
First National
Bank, Cripple
Creek, Colo.

PAY CHECK	THE PORTLAND GOLD MINING COMPANY		PAY CHECK NO. 19035
	COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO.		JAN 15 1932
	PAY TO THE ORDER OF WM FARIS		\$12.00
	EIGHTY-ONE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS		DOLLARS
	IN FULL FOR SERVICES FOR SEVEN-MONTHLY PERIOD ENDING JAN. 15, 1932		
THE PORTLAND GOLD MINING COMPANY		COUNTERSIGNED BY <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT	
To FIRST NATIONAL BANK 82-47 CRIPPLE CREEK, COLO.			

ACROSS OUR DESK

Price lists, fixed price and auction catalogs, journals, etc., received since the last issue. Items with an * may require a subscription. Write first to company. It is hoped this listing will prove to be a resource for our members.

Regular price list #10 of US and world checks, bank tokens and related items from Lee Poleske, P. O. Box 871, Seward, AK 99664. The Bank and Check News letter was sent with the list and contains interesting news items of the banking and financial world.

Price list of checks and related fiscal items from M. S. Kazanjian, 25 King Philip Ave., Barrington, RI 02808. A variety of checks, conveniently listed by areas of interest.

November 1989 Catalog of Oregon Paper Money Exchange, 6802 S.W. 33rd Place, Portland, OR 97219. This catalog includes checks, drafts, warrants, reference books, albums and mylar sleeve holders for checks and postcards.

Fixed Price List #4 from Rodney A. Battles, 413 Fairhaven Drive, Hurst, TX 76054. Western checks and fiscal paper with related historical notations on the items offered.

*Catalog of Public Auction No. 87 from H. J. W. Daugherty, P. O. Box 1146, Eastham, MA 02642. A variety of checks and revenue stamped paper, revenue stamps and related items.

*2nd Edition of the 1989 Catalog from Hugh Shull, P. O. Box 712, Leesville, SC 29070. Sixty pages of checks, banknotes, fiscal documents and more, arranged by states.

Catalog of Mail Bid Sale No. 41 from S. H. Jemik, P. O. Box 753, Bowie, MD 20715. Many lots of checks and related items.

Catalog No. 73 of Robert F. Batchelder, 1 West Butler Avenue, Ambler, PA 19002. Checks with autographs are included among the letters and documents.

Catalog No. 30 of Mail Bid Sale from Cohasco, Inc., Postal 821, Yonkers, NY 10702. Includes checks among the historical documents and other desirable collectibles offered.

CONVERSATION PIECE:

Farmers State Bank 72-2022

Fairfield, Iowa
Pay to the order of

192

\$

Dollars

No. _____

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A. S. C. C. MEMBERSHIP

	ADD	DROP	TOTAL
August 1989	14	1	349
November 1989	16	2	363

NEW MEMBERS:

- 1240 Joseph Belliveau (Colltr)
P. O. 462
Ellington, CT 06029
Areas: 12-Coca-Cola
(By Bob Spence)
- 1241 R. D. McCutchan (Colltr)
1178 N. Del Sol Lane
Diamond Bar, CA 91765
Areas: 2-CA, NV & 30.
(By J. T. Paslawsky)
- 1242 Dennis L. Brown
24 High Street
Lakewood, NJ 08701-5235
Areas: 1,2-NJ esp. Lakewood,
12-Gould, Rockefeller, Van
Debilt & Titanic passenger
signatures, 20, 21, 22,23
and 30
(By J. T. Paslawsky)
- 1243 Leonard Weil
4501 La Barca
Tarzana, CA 91356
Areas: 1,2,4,21,30 & 32
(By Sandy Mock)
- 1244 Christophe Stickel (Dir)
1080 Sullivan Ave. Office 4
Daly City, CA 94015
Areas: 21-Checks signed by
famous people.
(By Michael Saks)
- 1245 Walter Paas
9222 Garrison Drive, #201B
Indianapolis, IN 46240
Areas: 1,2 & 12-Counter
checks.
(By J. T. Paslawsky)
- 1246 Adam Harwood (Dir)
P. O. Box 5083
Bldg. 1900 NMC
Newport, RI 02841
Areas: 12- Counter checks
and 21.
(By J. T. Paslawsky)
- 1247 George W. Foote (Colltr)
6683 S. Yukon Way
Littleton, CO 80123
Areas: 2-CO and Western US,
esp. Cripple Creek, CO, 20,
21 & 23. Western mining
checks & signatures of
Western personalities.
(By R. K. Richards)

NEW MEMBERS:

- 1248 Sy Kessler
16 Sleepy Lane
Hicksville, NY 11801
- 1249 Daniel Benice (Colltr)
P. O. Box 10068
Rockville, MD 20850
Areas: 12-Tickets used for
transit, amusement or good
for merchandise and services.
Also, old, thick business
cards.
- 1250 Herman Ivester (Colltr)
5 Leslie Circle
Little Rock, AR 72205
Areas: 1,17 & 25-Arkansas.
(By Charlie Gould)
- 1251 John J. O'Hare (Colltr/Dir)
197 Lancaster Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222
Areas: 2-General,4,30 & 31.
- 1252 Frank W. Hammelbacher
(Colltr/Dir)
65-09 99th Street
Rego Park, NY 11374
Areas: 21,22 & 30
(By Charles Kemp)
- 1253 Leo May (Dir)
Box 8711
Coral Gables, FL 33124
Areas: 1, 30 & 32
(By Bob Spence)
- 1254 James L. Schwind (Col/Dir)
1918 Wilder
Helena, MT 59601
Areas: 2, 20 & 22.
(Article in Travel
Collector).
- 1255 Frank F. Himpel (Colltr)
153 Ravine Drive
Matawan, NJ 07747
Areas: 1,4,22 & 31.
(By Bob Spence)

REJOINED MEMBERS:

- 1027 Charles W. Ashwell
P. O. Box 2152
Carbondale, IL 62902
(By Charles Kemp)
- 53 William R. Wilson
304 W. Park Ave.
Lebanon, OH 45036
(By Charles Kemp)
- 925 John B. Henry
7821 3rd Ave. South
St. Petersburg, FL 33707
(By Charles Kemp)

REJOINED MEMBERS:

- 999 G. J. Kadlec
526-B Shoup Ave. West
Twin Falls, ID 83301
(By Charles Kemp)
- 88 Anthony Giacomelli
10917 Manzanita Dr.
Sun City, AZ 85373
Areas: 2,4,22 & 26
(By Roger Patterson)
- 266 Samuel T. Clements
103 South Main St.
Akron, OH 44308
- 1041 Bob Cochran
P. O. Box 1085
Florissant, MO 63031
(By Charles Kemp)
- 73 Raymond Werner
9705-38 Hickory Hollow Rd.
Leesburg, FL 34788
- 189 Robert E. Tansky
3710 Old Farm Road
Port Huron, MI 48060
- 386 Steven K. Whitfield
95-B Schofield Circle
Fort Riley, KS 66442-1126
- 697 Robert W. Hearn
P. O. Box 211
Harrington Park, NJ 07640
- 789 David M. Beach
P. O. Box 4726
Winter Park, FL 32793
- 801 William J. Johnson
6608 Maple Drive
Clarkston, MI 48016
- 906 Don Ketterling
2185 Union St.
San Francisco, CA 94123

- 1232 Brian Seltzer
9327 Kings Post Ct
Laurel, MD 20707

- 904 Lawrence Marsh
c/o Grover Griswell
15001 N.E. 248 Ave. R
Ft. McCoy, FL 32134

DECEASED:

- 208 Joseph S. Einstein
- 977 David Eakin

AREAS OF COLLECTING INTEREST:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 - Checks - General | 5 - Checks - Great Britain |
| 2 - Checks - U.S.A.
(Region or States
of special interest) | 6 - Checks - Canada |
| 3 - U.S. Gov't. Checks | 7 - Checks - World
(Region or Countries
of special interest) |
| 4 - Misc. Fiscals:
Bank Drafts
Bills of Exchange
Certs. of Deposit
Promissory Notes
Receipts
Warrants | 8 - Travellers Cheques &
Money Orders |
| | 9 - Specimen Checks |
| | 10 - Ration Checks |
| | 11 - Refund/Rebate Checks |
| | 12 - Other: |
| | 14 - Counter & Modern Checks |

- 20 - Vignettes
- 21 - Autographs
- 22 - Railroads, Steamboats,
Mining
- 23 - Banking History
- 24 - Security Printing &
Printers
- 25 - Check Protectors &
Cancel Devices
- 26 - Wells Fargo History
- 30 - Stock & Bond
Certificates
- 31 - Revenue Stamped Documents
- 32 - Emergency Scrip

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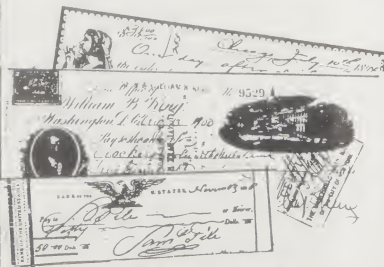
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